

Trade Notes...

FAS public affairs specialist
Don Washington is at (202) 720-3101;
E-mail: washington@fas.usda.gov

U.S. and EU Resolve Banana Dispute

The United States and the European Commission reached an agreement to resolve the long-standing dispute over bananas. A new regime will go into effect on July 1, 2001, providing a transition to a tariff-only system by 2006.

During the transition, bananas will be imported into the European Union (EU) through import licenses distributed on the basis of past trade. The European Commission will also initiate the necessary procedures to propose to the Council of Ministers an adjustment of the quantities in the various quotas, in order to expand access for Latin American bananas and to secure a market share for a specific quantity of bananas of African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) origin. When the new system goes into effect the United States will suspend the sanctions imposed since 1999 against EU imports valued at \$191 million.

Biggest High- Value Market and Growing

Canada is the top market for U.S. consumer food products and one that has been growing steadily over the past 10 years.

U.S. agricultural, fish and forest product exports to Canada in 2000 (\$10.1 billion) exceeded the level exported to the 15 European Union member states by more than \$2.0 billion for the same time period. Nearly half of all U.S. exports of fresh fruits and vegetables (\$3.3 billion) go to Canada. It is interesting to note that with regard to agricultural trade, if the province of Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec were countries they would rank, respectively, as the fourth (\$4.6 billion), eighth (\$1.1 billion) and 18th (\$525 million) largest individual markets for U.S. agricultural exports.

U.S. Almond Exports to India Break Record

U.S. almond exports to India, now the industry's second largest export market after Germany, reached a record level of \$70.5 million in calendar year 2000, up 76 percent from the previous year. Almonds were the leading U.S. agricultural export item to India last year, accounting for over 30 percent of the cumulative export value. Consumers in India used almonds mainly as a food ingredient, rather than as a snack. India buys most of its almonds (approximately 95 percent) from the United States. Through continued market development efforts, industry sources believe that U.S. almond exports to India have the potential to top \$100 million per year.

FAS Gets a New Symbol



At the age of almost 50 years, most would agree, it's time for a make-over, so FAS has redesigned its logo. A new slogan characterizes the logo, "Linking U.S. Agriculture to the World." The objective is to better identify the agency and its mission: to expand opportunities in the international marketplace for U.S. agricultural products and to promote world food security.